

Message Text

SECRET

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8004

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

S E C R E T TEHRAN 6907

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IR, AF

SUB: SHAH ON RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN

AT AUDIENCE ON AFTERNOON JULY 6 DURING WHICH SECRETARY'S MESSAGE ABOUT NAIM'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON WAS CONVEYED, SHAH NOTED THAT DESPITE NAIM'S STATEMENT ABOUT IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH IRAN, NOTHING SEEMS TO GET SETTLED WITH THE AFGHANS, NO PROJECTS HAVE REACHED A FINAL STAGE. THE SHAH POINTED OUT THAT THE AFGHANS ARE PERFECTLY WILLING "TO TAKE" BUT THAT THEY ARE RARELY IN A FRAME OF MIND "TO GIVE." HE SAID THEY MUTTER ABOUT "PUBLIC OPINION" AND "THE REACTION OF THE PEOPLE." AFTER A DISPARAGING REFERENCE TO "WHAT PUBLIC OPINION," THE SHAH COMMENTED THAT PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO IS CONVINCED THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH AFGHANISTAN IS TO "MAKE A PACKAGE." IN OTHER WORDS, HE MAY LIKELY SUGGEST TO HIS PEOPLE THAT THEY ATTEMPT TO PUT SEVERAL PROJECTS TOGETHER IN ONE AGREEMENT, THUS HOPING TO OBTAIN WHAT APPEARS TO BE GOING ON NOW, I.E., THE AFGHANS INSISTING ON ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS OR FAVORABLE TERMS WHILE THE IRANIANS FAIL TO GET ANYTHING WHICH THEY FEEL THEY SHOULD HAVE IN RETURN. WHETHER SUCH A DEVICE IS WORKABLE OR NOT OBVIOUSLY REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

HELMS

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NNN

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